

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 PM-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 TRSE-00 NEA-10 MCT-01 /089 W

----- 041536

R 170855Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6197

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4352

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SN

SUBJECT: PRE-31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS: KEY POLITICAL ISSUES

REF: A) STATE 220772 B) STATE 220773

SUMMARY : DURING SEPTEMBER 15 CANDLE-ILLUMINATED CALL (OCCASIONED BY POWER FAILURE) ON MFA'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION (KESAVAPANY), OUTLINED US POSITION ON UNGA ISSUES IN REFTELS. KESAVAPANY STATED THAT MANY OF THESE ISSUES HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT ASEAN PRE-UNGA MEETING IN MANILA BUT THAT ASEAN CONSENSUS EMERGED ON RELATIVELY FEW ITEMS. THEREFORE, ASEAN MEMBERS WOULD, FOR THE MOST PART, NOT VOTE EN BLOC. END SUMMARY.

1. AT OUTSET DISCUSSION, EMBASSY OFFICERS HANDED RESAVAPANY PAPER WITH TALKING POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTELS. EMBASSY OFFICERS ALSO TOUCHED ORALLY ON SEVERAL OF THE POINTS. AT END OF MEETING, WHEN ELECTRIC LIGHTS HAD BEEN RESTORED, KESAVAPANY REVIEWED PAPER, FREQUENTLY INDICATING THAT PARTICULAR ITEMS ONLY OF MARGINAL CONCERN TO GOS. HIS COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES FOLLOW.

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2. KOREA--ALTHOUGH ASEAN HAD NOT FOUND IT POSSIBLE TO CO-SPONSOR PRO-SOUTH KOREAN RESOLUTION, GOS WOULD SUPPORT LATER RESOLUTION AND OPPOSE PRO-NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION IN UNGA.

3. UNRWA FINANCING --KESAVAPANY SAID GOS WAS AWARE OF AGENCY'S GROWING FUNDING REQUIREMENTS BUT HE WAS NON-COMMITTAL ON WHETHER GOS WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE MORE.

4. INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE (IOPZ) --KESAVAPANY EQUATED IOPZ WITH ZPFN (ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IN SEA), DECLARING THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF BOTH PROPOSALS WERE UNOBJECTIONABLE. MOREOVER, THE PROPONENTS OF BOTH CONCEPTS ENGAGED IN VACUOUS DREAMS IN THINKING THAT THE DECLARATION OF SUCH ZONES WOULD EXCLUDE MAJOR POWER RIVALRIES FROM THE AREA INVOLVED. (COMMENT: THIS POSITION DOES NOT, HOWEVER, MEAN THAT THE GOS WILL NOT FEEL COMPELLED TO SUPPORT IOPZ PROPOSAL IN THE SAME WAY IT IS BOUND TO GIVE ZPFN PUBLIC SUPPORT.) EMBASSY OFFICER USED THIS OPENING TO AGAIN INQUIRE REGARDING DISCUSSION OF ZPFN ISSUE AT ASEAN PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS. MALAYSIA HAD, ACCORDING TO KESAVAPANY, PUSHED FOR "GRADUALIST" APPROACH ON ZPFN ISSUE IN MANILA ON GROUNDS THAT SINCE ONLY SRV AND LAOS OPPOSED IT, IT WOULD BE BEST TO WORK ON THESE COUNTRIES BILATERALLY RATHER THAN TO INTRODUCE ZPFN ISSUE INTO UNGA WHERE COLOMBO SCENARIO MIGHT BE REPEATED. KESAVAPANY, IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, STATED FLATLY THAT HE COULD NOT SEE ZPFN ISSUE BEING RAISED IN NEW YORK SINCE MALAYSIA WAS WEDDED TO ITS GRADUALIST APPROACH AND WOULD HARDLY HAVE TIME TO WORK ON HANOI OR VIETIANE PRIOR TO UNGA. SINCE MALAYSIA HAD PROPRIETARY INTEREST IN ZPFN, OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD DEFER TO ITS WISHES. (THIS CONFIRMS INFO PROVIDED IN MANILA 14088.)

5. UNITED NATIONS BUDGET --GOS HEARTILY ENDORSES OUR STATED OBJECTIVES.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS--KESAVAPANY NOTED THAT FRG WOULD INTRODUCE RESOLUTIONS ON THIS ISSUE AND ON THE RELATED ISSUE OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM BUT THAT THE GOS HAD NOT FOCUSSED ON ISSUES DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED TEXTS.

7. UNITED NATIONS RESTRUCTURING --IN THIS CONNECTION KESAVAPANY
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RAISED MANDATE OF AD HOC COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF UN CHARTER, SAYING ASEAN WOULD SUPPORT THIS PET PROJECT OF GENERAL ROMULO'S.

8. EMBASSY OFFICER USED OCCASION TO RAISE TWO RELATED ITEMS:

(A) ASIAN ECOSOC SEAT. (SEE STATE 214904) SINGAPORE HAS ABANDONED ITS CANDIDACY AND ASEAN WILL SUPPORT PHILIPPINES.

(B) PUERTO RICO. KESAVAPANY STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER

GOS HAD FILED RESERVATION TO PUERTO RICO LANGUAGE IN NAC
POLITICAL DECLARATION. EMBASSY OFFICER NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR
HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM (SN 4016)
THAT THE GOS WOULD FILE RESERVATION ON PUERTO RICO LANGUAGE.
EVEN IF THE ISSUE WAS NO LONGER PRESSING, DUE TO RECENT ACTION
OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24, USG CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT THAT NAM
OBJECTIONS TO PUERTO RICO LANGUAGE, INCLUDING THAT OF GOS,
BE NOTED FOR THE RECORD. KESAVAPANY PROMISED TO LOOK INTO MATTER.
GRANT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SINGAP04352
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760352-0689
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760948/aaaaboza.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 220772, 76 STATE 220773
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRE-31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS: KEY POLITICAL ISSUES
TAGS: PFOR, SN, US, UN, ASEAN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006